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21 April 1955

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Copy No. 94

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 13
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 8/1/80 REVIEWER: 



DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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Approved For Release 2002/07/30 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002000130001-4

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GENERAL

1. Bohlen comments on significance of change in Soviet position on Austria:

Ambassador Bohlen doubts that the Kremlin seriously expects it can significantly impede implementation of the Paris agreements merely by changing its position on Austria. He is convinced that Moscow realizes the only sure way of preventing West German rearmament would involve the sacrifice of the Soviet position in East Germany, a price it has so far been unwilling to pay.

Bohlen believes the USSR is still determined to hold East Germany, and that its next move will be to sound out the Bonn government on establishing relations with Moscow in return for West German recognition of the East German government. While it is doubtful that the USSR would be prepared to have a four-power meeting on unification, it might conceivably have in mind a four-power agreement to limit rearmament in both parts of Germany.

Bohlen thinks, however, that any undue delay in setting up a Soviet bloc security system after the Paris accords take effect, or any exclusion of East Germany or special status for it, would probably be a sign of some shift in Soviet policy on Germany.

Comment: The rapidity and manner in which the USSR recently has moved on Austria indicate that it intends to use an Austrian settlement to arouse German confidence in the sincerity of Soviet proposals for unification, in an attempt to impede West German rearmament. Moscow may now suggest conferences on other issues and make new proposals for Germany, even though it does not intend to give up East Germany.

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

2. Viet Minh reported planning "stay-behind" struggle in central Vietnam:

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[Redacted]

The Viet Minh is secretly reorganizing party cells in the remaining Viet Minh regroupment area along the coast in South Vietnam, according to a Vietnamese government report (see map, p. 5). High party officials are considering locating their headquarters and ammunition stocks in the strategic plateau area in southern Annam where cadres are presently attempting to win the allegiance of the ethnic minorities.

Preparations for the "stay-behind" struggle along the coast include teaching the population techniques of non-co-operation with the national government and spreading propaganda that a wave of reprisals and assassinations will follow the arrival of the army.

Comment: Viet Minh evacuation of this regroupment area is to take place between 22 April and 16 May.

The effectiveness of Viet Minh disruptive efforts will be largely contingent on the ability of the Vietnamese government to solve its economic problems and to establish an efficient administration.

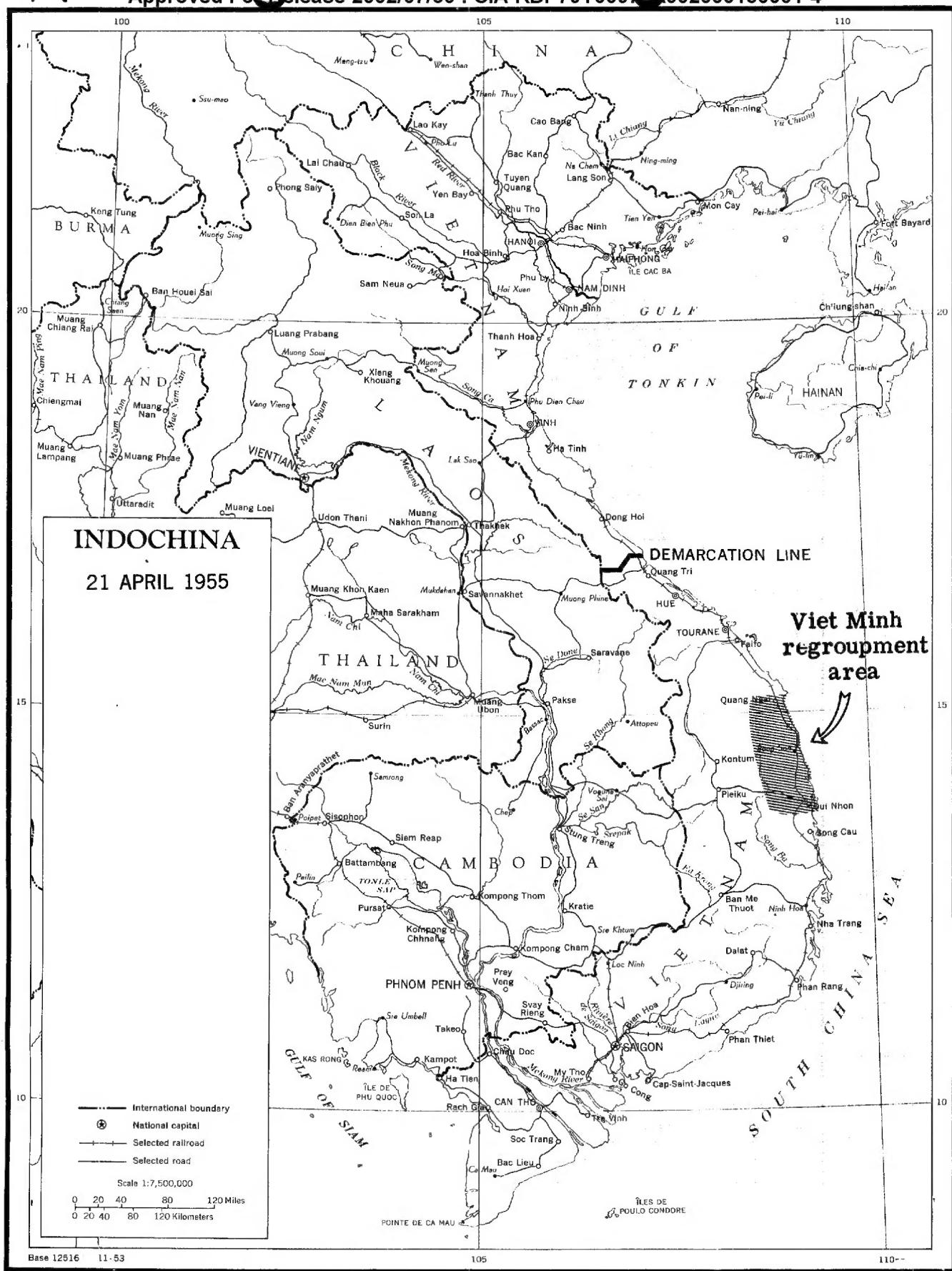
How successful Saigon's administration has been in other regroupment areas is not known.

3. End of Thai-Burmese "co-operation" predicted:

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[Redacted]

There is every reason to believe that the "sham" of Thai-Burmese co-operation may soon end, in the opinion of the American army attaché in Bangkok. He cites a report from the American consul in Chiengmai that the Thai police recently



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permitted the shipment of 150 bags of rice and 4,000 cartons of cigarettes to the Chinese Nationalist irregulars on the Burma side of the border. The attaché also reports that a border incident in early April resulted in considerable tension between local Thai and Burmese officials.

Comment: Thai-Burmese relations have been traditionally cool, and only during the past 12 months has there been an apparent improvement.

Thai police director general Phao agreed to seal off the Thai-Burmese border in order to assist the Burmese in their current offensive against the Chinese guerrillas. [redacted]

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In the event the Burmese learn of the reported Thai shipments to the guerrillas, they will be more inclined than ever to blame their lack of success to date against the guerrillas on the Thai and to hold the United States partly responsible.

4. Sukarno reportedly invites Nehru, Chou and Nasr to remain as state guests:

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[redacted] President Sukarno has invited Premiers Chou En-lai, Nehru and Nasr to remain as state guests after the close of the Bandung conference. [redacted]

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Comment: Sukarno apparently sees Nasr as the likely candidate among Arab leaders to be won over to the point of view of Asian neutralist leaders. At the invitation of Burma's premier, Nasr stopped over in Rangoon, along with Chou and Nehru, on his way to the conference.

Chou is reportedly seeking Nasr's favor by indicating that Communist China is ready to increase its purchases of Egyptian cotton if a trade arrangement can be negotiated.

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